

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

CHAPTER I.

Early Saxon Writings.—*Poems Brought to England from the Homes of the Saxons*, 460.—*Cædmon*, 670.

1. **Literature** is a reflection of life in all ages. It is the only means by which we know how mankind in other times lived, thought, and acted. English literature, in which we may also include American literature, expresses the thoughts, feelings, and observations of writers who used or use the English language.

In speaking of American literature, we must remember that it means many writings not in English. In South America and Mexico there are great authors who do not write the English language; and in Canada, which is part of America, there are numbers of writers in the French language deservedly celebrated.